

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road - Tiverton, RI 02878 - Phone (401) 816-5667

ERICD Board Meeting

December 13, 2011

7:00 PM

Chairman Walter Elwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Directors, Walter Elwell, Ron Mucci, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart, Suzanne Hourihan. Ramona LeBlanc, State Conservation Committee; Melissa Hayden, NRCS; Jessica Blackledge, ERICD Project Manager.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 11/8/11 meeting: Ron/Suzanne: unanimous.

II. Reports:

A. Treasurer's:

• Bank reconciliation and budget year to date reports were distributed. Ramona explained the budget report. Motion was made to accept the reports: Dick/Suzanne; unanimous.

• A motion was made to transfer \$4000 back to Sovereign account:

Dick/Suzanne; unanimous.

B. Project Manager: written report distributed.

- **Contact list for outreach and a project schedule are being developed for geese abatement.**
- **Jessie has participated in extensive field training for Outreach agreement.**
- **NRCS workshop held at Portsmouth Library was attended by 25 people. Follow-up to this workshop has resulted in 1 NRCS application to date and an additional site visit is scheduled.**
- **Jessie reported expenditures from petty cash account since last meeting. She continues to update Annual Report and website.**

C. Chair: Walter received a letter from Little Compton Preservation Society which stated that they hope to have trout in the Pondraso for children only for opening day of 1012 fishing season.

D. Directors:

- **Dick:**
 - a. Attended Tiverton Town Council meeting, Tiverton seminar on waste water, NRCS workshop at Portsmouth Library.**
 - b. Tiverton School Dept/DEM discussing septic failure at town schools.**
 - c. Dick suggested compiling a list of college students in ag field who are available for short term per diem work. Jessie will check with her**

contacts at Roger Williams about best method of compiling such a list.

- Ron: Will try to schedule movie event in cooperation with Tiverton Land Trust.**
- Emerson: Attended State Conservation Committee meeting, RIACD meeting, and 25th anniversary celebration for Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust.**
- Suzanne: Nothing to report.**

E. Office: Use remains high.

F. NRCS:

- State office is busy with new applications and conservation plans. It is expected that rankings will be completed by 2/3/12.**
- New State policy is to develop conservation plans first, followed by applications.**
- Currently there are 1 AMA, 1 CSP, 3 WHIP, and 22 EQIP applications in ERICD.**

G. SCC:

- A small group will meet to discuss fee for service items that the CD could provide to landowners to meet existing needs.**
- The SCC has formed a subcommittee to plan a central website for the CD's and partners.**

H. RIACD:

- **Lack of previous funding sources, such as indirect fees from grants and Conservation District dues, has impacted RIACD's budget. Dick will be applying for NACD scholarship to attend national meeting.**
- **The Ag Collaboration has received additional \$100,000 grant from Van Buren Foundation.**
- **Dick reminded group that State Technical Team recommendations are used in determining NRCS policy.**

III. Old Business:

A. Annual Dinner:

- **A slight profit was realized by the event.**
- **A motion was made to send thank you letters to those farmers who donated food, and to Skip Paul for organizing dinner: Ron/Dick; unanimous.**

B. Nomination Papers: Ron and Emerson are gathering signatures.

IV. New Business:

A. Bills:

- **A motion was made to pay bills presented: Dick/Emerson; unanimous.**

- A motion was made to make \$100 contribution to RI Envirothon: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.
- A motion was made to transfer \$150 to petty cash account: Emerson/Suzanne; unanimous.

B. Fee for Service: Previously discussed.

C. Dick reported that Tiverton Harbor Management Board will be working in cooperation with URI to study pollution in Nanaquaket Pond in Spring 2012.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:41